

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application before this Amendment.

The Examiner objects to the drawings as being of insufficient quality for publication.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as their invention. The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Greggain (U.S. Pat. No. 5,991,463). The Examiner rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greggain in view of Fandrianto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,901,248).

The Applicants amend claims 1-5 and add claim 6. Claims 1-6 remain in the case after this Amendment.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Drawing Objections

The Applicants submit replacement drawings with this amendment.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

The Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 5 to obviate the Examiner rejections. More particularly, the Applicants delete the term “visually significant features” from claims 1 and 5. Claim 1’s recitation of a *predetermined image feature* and claim 5’s recitation of a *predetermined pixel sequence* is well supported in the specification, e.g., at page 6, lines 25-30 through page 7, lines 1-6.

The Applicants amend claim 4 to clarify the invention and obviate the Examiner’s rejection. Claim 4 now recites that the *sequence of relative shifts between adjacent rows* brings the *predetermined image features into alignment*.

Claim Rejections Under § 102 and 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 5 as being old over Greggain.

Claim 1 recites a *feature extractor to identify a predetermined image feature in a pixel sequence*. Claim 5 recites *processing source pixels to identify predetermined pixel sequences*. As explained in the specification, e.g., beginning at page 6, line 25, the “feature extractor 302...performs a process whereby specific characteristics of the image are identified...the most important features in an image...are...a ramp (a succession of either increasing or decreasing intensities), edges (a large change in intensity, sometimes called a

step), and a level segment (a series of successive intensities that are relatively constant). There are other features such as noise, spikes, and so on, which can also be identified and stored for subsequent use...The targeted feature for extraction is user-definable and, therefore, programmable, so alternative definitions of specific features can be changed in dynamic manner." This last programmable limitation is recited in new claim 6.

Greggain discloses no such feature extractor. Greggain compares pixels in different source image lines surrounding the target pixel in at least two directions. That is, Greggain calculates difference values for different interpolation directions, compares these differences, and selects an interpolation direction based on the comparison. The feature extractor, by contrast and only for illustration, may use a single row of pixel data to identify three predetermined image features or components, namely, a downward segment, an upward segment, and a level segment. Specification, page 7, lines 10-26.

And claim 1 recites a feature comparator *to compare similar predetermined image features*. Similarly, claim 5 recites *matching similar predetermined pixel sequences in adjacent rows*. Since Greggain does not identify predetermined image features, it cannot be said to disclose their comparison.

Claim 2 recites that the feature extractor may include *a programmable state machine*. Greggain offers no such programmable state machine.

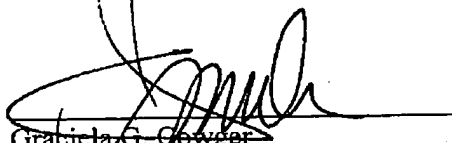
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT

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